

statement upon the occasion of the historic visit by Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, to the congregation on October 8, 2000. His words, at this time of upheaval in the Middle East, are an important call for rapprochement and reconciliation between the religions and peoples of the world.

What a job and what a blessing to welcome into our grateful midst His Eminence Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, accompanied by our long-time friend, Bishop Walter Sullivan of Richmond. Particularly significant is the Cardinal's gracious presence on the eve of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, when we view our historical experience through a veil of tears, and our vulnerability and loneliness are so poignantly evident.

The Cardinal's heartfelt acceptance to join us, at a time of mounting tension in the Middle East and his prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, are testimony to the great vision of the Roman Catholic Church which he so eminently represents, to offer God's essential gifts of healing and reconciliation to two world faith groups so intimately linked, yet so painfully separated for so long, too long. His friendly, thoughtful and reassuring words will long echo.

We recall with reverence the revolutionary strides made by the remarkable Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council, along with the historic acts of the much beloved Pope John Paul II. New hope has been breathed among those holding Abraham to be their common father, respecting the Jewish covenant with the Divine while honoring its adherents whose suffering on its behalf extended for two millennia, culminating in the Shoah's immense tragedy. The Pope's recent visit to Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and his profound message of compassion and consolation, along with the Holy Father's prayer at the Western Wall, the holiest Jewish shrine, are powerful symbols deeply appreciated and never to be forgotten, following upon the Vatican establishing diplomatic relations with the state of Israel in 1994.

Even as we pray for the well being of the aging and ailing Pope, loving and courageous witness to Poland's vineyard of the Jewish people turned into its graveyard during the Nazi onslaught, so do we appeal for fortifying and safeguarding his vast legacy of embrace with its boundless promise to finally transform the human family. Too much is at stake.

All religions have a golden opportunity to join forces for infusing a secular world and a materialistic environment, through moral persuasion, and never again through physical coercion, with an aspiring sacred call of the indivisible dignity of all God's children; affirming that indeed each one of us has been created in the Divine's own sacred image, which is the greatest human rights statement we share through the Hebrew Scriptures' eternal gift. Let us faithfully assert together that true freedom is born of spiritual responsibility.

TRIBUTE TO THE EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, last weekend more than 450 alumni of the Experiment in International Living, a global student exchange

program, gathered for their first-ever annual reunion in Brattleboro, VT. The reunion commemorated the Experiment's 68 year history of helping young Americans break down national and cultural barriers and forge relationships that have sustained them over years and across thousands of miles.

Founded in 1932, the Experiment in International Living is now a program of World Learning, a widely respected international educational services organization. Every year, Experiment students travel to countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and Oceania as part of a summer abroad program. Through this exchange, Experimenters are immersed in the daily culture of a single place and its people as they embark on journey of cultural and personal discovery.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally invested in the success of the Experiment in International Living in part the program made a personal investment in me over 25 years ago. In 1973, I traveled to Yugoslavia and spent ten weeks with a host family through the Experiment in International Living program. Even as a 19-year-old college student, I recognized the life-changing effect this experience would have. Today, as a member of the House International Relations Committee, I can trace my strong interest in the Balkans in particular and international affairs more generally to those wonderful ten weeks. It is my great hope that I, along with my colleagues in the House, can help make it possible for thousands more young Americans to join the Experiment and participate in the life-changing journey that it embodies.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate World Learning, the Experiment in International Living and its alumni for their remarkable success in forging international connections. As attendees of last weekend's reunion can attest, the Experiment in International Living teaches young people to understand the differences that sometimes divide us while recognizing the common bonds that make us all part of the human family.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN E. PORTER, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for arranging a special order to honor an outstanding colleague of mine, Congressman JOHN EDWARD PORTER, for his twenty years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside him for 14 of those years.

In my time working with JOHN, one thing became perfectly clear and that's his dedication to improving medical research. Serving as Chairman of the Labor-HHS Subcommittee on Appropriations he has been the greatest champion of this cause. JOHN knows the important role the NIH plays in saving lives and conquering diseases such as diabetes, cancer, AIDS and alzheimers, and has made it a

top priority to ensure the NIH has all the necessary resources to achieve these goals.

JOHN has also been one of the most fiscally responsible members of this House. In fact, when I was a new Member, there was a three-year period when JOHN offered budget plans to try and impose a sense of fiscal responsibility on Congress. I am pleased to say that as JOHN leaves us, the fiscal outlook of the federal government has never looked better.

Although it is often overshadowed by his dedication to medical research, JOHN has been an important leader of the "Green Republicans" in the House. He has been a staunch supporter of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and has helped to enact important legislation to halt the unregulated export of waste and the destruction of tropical rainforests, as well as helped to set new standards for recycling and energy efficiency. He has also been an advocate for his district residents suffering from flood damage. For his leadership on these issues, John has received numerous awards from environmental organizations all over the world.

Speaking of world issues, I have had the opportunity to serve as a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which JOHN co-founded and currently chairs. This is an important association of Congressmen that work together to monitor and end human rights violations around the world.

While it is true that JOHN has been a strong advocate for each of these causes, more importantly, he has been the people's champion in his service of the 10th District of Illinois. He has addressed countless infrastructure needs, most recently bringing Metra rail service from Chicago out to Lake County. He has been a great supporter of the Palwaukee and Waukegan Airports by securing FAA improvement grants to provide better service for his constituents. And he has obtained funding to clean up and restore Waukegan harbor and the Skokie Lagoons.

JOHN EDWARD PORTER has served this House with the utmost distinction and will be forever remembered for his work on behalf of biomedical research, environmental and human rights, and fiscal responsibility. He will be deeply missed by his constituents in Illinois, the Illinois delegation, and everyone who's known and worked with him over the last twenty-plus years. I wish him and his family the very best in the upcoming years.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH EMERSON OF ROME, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Joseph Emerson, who has recently been appointed Postmaster of Rome, Georgia.

Postmaster Emerson began his postal career in Rome, Georgia as a PTF carrier in 1961. He was promoted to Assistant Carrier Station Superintendent, and since his promotion he has served as a supervisor in mail processing and delivery, Superintendent of Postal Operations, and Officer-in-Charge assignments.